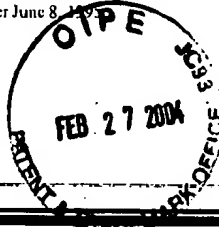


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**REQUEST FOR  
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for the continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.



1771 RCE \$

Application Number	09/180,432
Filing Date	February 12, 1999
First Named Inventor	MACHINO, et al.
Group Art Unit	1771
Name of Examiner	Ula Corinna Ruddock
Attorney Docket No.	981361

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Note: 37 C.F.R. §1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. §1.53 (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar 20, 2000) 1233 Off. Gazette Pat

1. **Submission Required Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114**

a. ☒ Previously submitted

i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 previously filed on MAR 09 2004  
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered)

ii. ☒ Consider the arguments in the Reply Brief previously filed on February 4, 2003

iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

b. ☐ Enclosed

i. ☐ Amendment/Reply

ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)

iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

iv. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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MAY 13 2004  
MAY 13 2004

2. **Miscellaneous**

a. ☒ Suspension of Action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.103(c) for a period of THREE months (period shall not exceed three months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) required)

b. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Fees** The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. §1.114 when the RCE is filed.

a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any necessary fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340

i. ☐ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (e) 03/03/2004 HVUDNG1 00000027 09180432

ii. ☐ Extension of Time Fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17) 01 FC:1801 770.00 OP

iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$770.00 is enclosed.

**REQUEST FOR  
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for the continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Atty Docket No.

981361

**SIGNATURE BY APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name **Susanne M. Hopkins**

Registration No. **33,247 (atty/agent)**

Signature

Date **February 27, 2004**

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, MAIL STOP RCE, Washington, D.C. 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:

Name

Signature

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